



IPCPR FACT SHEET

International Premium Cigar & Pipe Retailers
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What is the International Premium Cigar & Pipe Retailers (IPCPR)?

The International Premium Cigar & Pipe Retailers Association is the oldest, largest and most active trade association representing and assisting premium retail tobacconists and their suppliers. Founded in 1933, the IPCPR is a not-for-profit trade association organized as the advocate for the independent retail tobacconist and recognized as the "*Voice of Authority and Reason*" on premium tobacco related issues. We represent over 2,000 retail stores throughout the world selling tobacco products and accessories, as well as more than 350 manufacturers, distributors, and service providers of high quality merchandise. All members are fully committed to preserving the rights of adults to enjoy legal tobacco products.

What is a premium cigar?

Premium cigars are a handcrafted artisanal product, made with 100% tobacco. These cigars continue to be made by hand as they have been for several hundred years. Much like wine, premium cigar profiles range from mild to robust with numerous varieties in between. From a seedling, each premium cigar typically takes 3 – 4 years to produce, allowing flavor profiles to develop and mature. The retail price per unit is typically \$5 - \$30, with some cigars priced at \$40 or more.

Who does IPCPR represent?

The premium tobacco industry is a storied, traditional, artisan industry. IPCPR member stores have a tremendous presence across the nation by way of member stores in every state, with an average five in every Congressional district. Many of IPCPR members' businesses are family-owned, spanning several generations. Each store, on average, employs 5.3 full- and part-time employees. Nearly two-thirds of these stores have a full-time manager with an average salary in excess of \$36,000. The quintessential IPCPR member's store is a small business focusing almost exclusively on cigars, humidors, cutters, lighters, pipes, and pipe tobaccos, and other related accessories.

What issues are facing the premium cigar industry?

In 2009, "The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act" was signed into law, with the intent of curbing youth access to tobacco products and preventing addiction to tobacco. Premium cigars fit neither area yet are facing undue regulation from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Legislation in the House (H.R. 792) and Senate (S. 772) will exempt premium cigars, helping to preserve 85,000 domestic jobs. Our retailers must be able to have the freedom to sell a legal product without interference of the government.

IPCPR Position

IPCPR supports H.R. 792 and S. 772; we encourage Members of Congress to co-sponsor and vote in favor of this legislation. This bill will help to preserve an artisan industry, accounting for over 85,000 jobs in the United States. Premium cigars should not be regulated by FDA.

For more information, please contact **Kip Talley**, IPCPR Senior Director of Federal Legislative Affairs, by emailing kip@ipcpr.org or calling **540-424-0479** (mobile).